

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application.

This Response is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed May 2, 2007.

Claims 1-36 are pending. Claims 1-36 are rejected.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 12, 25, 26 and 29-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takagi, (U.S Patent No.: 5,510,957, hereinafter "Takagi"). The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 9, 11, 13-20, 22, 24, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugita, et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,931,649, hereinafter "Sugita") in view of Kan-o (U.S. Patent No.: 6,910,217, hereinafter "Kan-o"), claims 5, 8 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takagi, in view of Selby, et al., (U.S Patent No.: 5,793,728, hereinafter "Selby"), claims 10, 35 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takagi, in view of Sugita, claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takagi and Kan-o, as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Selby, and claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takagi and Kan-o, as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Sugita.

Claims 1-11

The cited art fails to teach or suggest, inter alia, as claimed in claim 1: “a cosmetic bezel having a second opening to receive the optical disk and second plurality of attachment features, the cosmetic bezel rigidly coupled to the functional bezel, wherein the first opening and the second opening are in alignment.”

Takagi is directed to an electronic device in which a control unit is detachable from an equipment body. The Examiner submits that part 12 of Takagi is equivalent to the functional bezel of the presently claimed invention and part 13 is equivalent to the cosmetic bezel of the presently claimed invention.

In Takagi, the alleged functional bezel (part 12) is integrated with the equipment body and the alleged cosmetic bezel (part 13) is releasably detachable from the functional bezel (part 12). Thus, in Tagaki, the cosmetic bezel (part 13) is not rigidly coupled to the functional bezel (part 12).

In contrast, claim 1 requires that the cosmetic bezel be rigidly coupled to the functional bezel, and the functional bezel is configured to be coupled with the optical drive. As explained in the present specification at paragraph [0014], one advantage of such an arrangement is that all parts of the optical drive bezel assembly are integrated as one unit before being attached to the optical disk drive to minimize or even eliminate misalignment.

Thus, the cited art fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Claims 2-11 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1.

Claims 12-24

The cited art fails to teach or suggest, inter alia, as claimed in claim 12: “an optical disk drive coupled to an optical drive bezel assembly, the optical drive bezel assembly having a functional bezel rigidly attached to a cosmetic bezel, wherein a slot is provided in the optical drive bezel assembly to allow an optical disk to pass therethrough and wherein the slot remains open when a disk is in the optical drive.”

As explained above with reference to claim 1, in Takagi, the alleged functional bezel (part 12) is integrated with the equipment body and the alleged cosmetic bezel (part 13) is releasably detachable from the functional bezel (part 12). Thus, in Tagaki, the functional bezel (part 12) is not rigidly attached to the cosmetic bezel (part 13).

In contrast, claim 12 requires that the functional bezel be rigidly attached to the cosmetic bezel. As explained in the present specification at paragraph [0014], one advantage of such an arrangement is that all parts of the optical drive

bezel assembly are integrated as one unit before being attached to the optical disk drive to minimize or even eliminate misalignment.

Thus, the cited art fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 12. Claims 13-24 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 12.

Claims 25-36

The cited art fails to teach or suggest, inter alia, as claimed in claim 25: "a cosmetic bezel having a second opening to receive the optical disk and second attachment feature, the cosmetic bezel rigidly coupled to the functional bezel through a coupling of the first and the second attachment features, wherein the first opening and the second opening are in alignment through the coupling of the first and the second attachment features."

As explained above with reference to claim 1, in Takagi, the alleged functional bezel (part 12) is integrated with the equipment body and the alleged cosmetic bezel (part 13) is releasably detachable from the functional bezel (part 12). Thus, in Tagaki, the cosmetic bezel (part 13) is not rigidly coupled to the functional bezel (part 12).

In contrast, claim 25 requires that the cosmetic bezel be rigidly coupled to the functional bezel through a coupling of the first and the second attachment

features, and the functional bezel coupled to the optical drive. As explained in the present specification at paragraph [0014], one advantage of such an arrangement is that all parts of the optical drive bezel assembly are integrated as one unit before being attached to the optical disk drive to minimize or even eliminate misalignment.

Thus, the cited art fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 25. Claims 26-36 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 25.

No motivation to modify cited art to arrive at the presently claimed inventions

Moreover, Applicants submit one of skill in the art would not modify Takagi to arrive at the presently claimed inventions.

Tagaki explains that the particular problem Takagi was solving was detaching the control unit from the equipment body so that the control unit can be carried away by the driver, leaving the internal mechanisms and circuitry of the equipment body remaining in the vehicle inoperable. Tagaki explains that a problem with prior art attachment structures for releasably detaching the control unit is that the control unit, if not being held in the driver's hand while depressing the lock release button, will fall to the floor of ground. See Description of the Prior Art (cols. 1 and 2).

One of skill in the art, reading Takagai, would not modify Takagi to arrive at the presently claimed invention because Takagi is directed to solving an entirely different problem. In addition, the solution of Takagi is to improve the locking and retaining mechanism for the detachable control unit (alleged cosmetic bezel). In contrast, embodiments of the presently claimed invention rigidly couple or attach the functional bezel and cosmetic bezel before attaching the bezel assembly to optical drive (equipment body in Takagi).

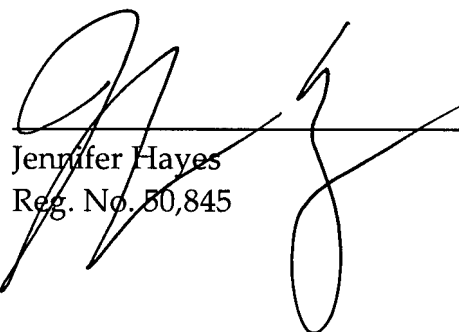
Applicants, accordingly, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Jennifer Hayes at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Any necessary extension of time for response not already requested is hereby requested. Please charge any corresponding fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman LLP

Date: August 2, 2007



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